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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/771,083	02/03/2004	Rudolf J. Hofmeister	15436.171.1	1066

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EXAMINER

LE, TOAN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2863

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/771,083	Applicant(s) HOFMEISTER ET AL.	
	Examiner Toan M. Le	Art Unit 2863	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4-15, 22, 23, 25-28 and 30-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 27 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4-15, 26, 28 and 30-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 22, 23 and 25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 25 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 25, line 1, "24" should read -4-.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 4-15, 26, 28, and 30-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Levinson (US Patent No. 5,019,769).

Referring to claim 4, Levinson discloses a transceiver module comprising:

a laser diode 100 (figure 3);

a laser driver coupled to the laser diode (col. 4, lines 59-68);

a microprocessor 162 coupled to the laser driver (figure 3);

memory 166 coupled to the microprocessor, the memory comprising a reference operating characteristic of the laser diode (col. 9, lines 15-35); and

wherein the microprocessor is adapted to collect periodic operating characteristics of the laser diode and to compare the periodic operating characteristics of the laser diode to the reference operating characteristics of the laser diode; and

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wherein the laser diode and laser driver are arranged such that the laser driver can bias the laser diode through two alternative paths (col. 10, lines 48-68; col. 11, lines 1-11; col. 16, lines 5-18).

As to claim 5, Levinson discloses a transceiver module, wherein the memory comprises an electronically erasable programmable read only memory 166 (figure 3).

As to claim 6, Levinson discloses a transceiver module, wherein the reference operating characteristics of the laser diode are stored as quadratic spline coefficients (col. 8, lines 31-42; col. 10, lines 28-47).

Referring to claim 7, Levinson discloses a transceiver module, wherein the reference and periodic operating characteristics of the laser diode comprise current/voltage characteristics (col. 9, lines 15-35; col. 10, lines 48-68; col. 11, lines 1-11).

As to claim 8, Levinson discloses a transceiver module, wherein the reference and periodic operating characteristics of the laser diode comprise current versus optical power characteristics (col. 9, lines 15-35; col. 10, lines 48-68; col. 11, lines 1-11).

Referring to claim 9, Levinson discloses a transceiver module, wherein the microprocessor is further adapted to store the periodic operating characteristics of the laser diode in the memory (col. 9, lines 15-35).

As to claim 10, Levinson discloses a transceiver module, wherein the microprocessor is further adapted to store the periodic operating characteristics of the laser diode in the memory as cubic spline coefficients (col. 8, lines 31-42; col. 10, lines 28-47).

As to claim 11, Levinson discloses a transceiver module comprising:

a laser diode 100 (figure 3);

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a laser driver coupled to the laser diode (col. 4, lines 59-68);
a microprocessor 162 coupled to the laser driver (figure 3);
memory 166 coupled to the microprocessor (figure 3) ; and
wherein the microprocessor is adapted to:
collect periodic operating characteristics of the laser diode at various times;
store the collected periodic operating characteristics of the laser diode in the memory;
compare the periodic operating characteristics of the laser diode collected at at least two
different times to detect damage to the laser diode; and
wherein the microprocessor is further configured to record the periodic operating
characteristics as cubic splines to the memory (col. 8, lines 31-42; col. 10, lines 28-68 to col. 11,
lines 1-11).

Referring to claim 12, Levinson discloses a transceiver module, wherein the periodic
operating characteristics comprise current/voltage characteristics (col. 9, lines 15-35; col. 10,
lines 48-68; col. 11, lines 1-11).

As to claim 13, Levinson discloses a transceiver module, wherein the periodic operating
characteristics comprise current versus optical power characteristics (col. 9, lines 15-35; col. 10,
lines 48-68; col. 11, lines 1-11).

Referring to claim 14, Levinson discloses a transceiver module, wherein the
microprocessor is further configured to set a fault flag when damage to the diode is discovered
(col. 9, lines 1-14).

As to claim 15, Levinson discloses a transceiver module, further comprising a
communications connector adapted to couple to an electronic component, the microprocessor

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further configured to notify an electronic component connected to the communications connector when damage to the diode is discovered (col. 9, lines 1-14).

Referring to claim 26, Levinson discloses a transceiver module, wherein the laser diode comprises an oxide laser (col. 1, lines 6-8 and lines 36-44).

Referring to claim 28, Levinson discloses a method for screening optical transceiver modules for electrostatic discharge damage, the method being performed in connection with an optical transceiver module that includes a laser diode, and the method comprising:

defining reference operating characteristics of the laser diode;

storing the reference operating characteristics of the laser diode, wherein the reference operating characteristics are stored as quadratic spline coefficients (col. 8, lines 31-42; col. 10, lines 28-47);

periodically collecting operating characteristics of the laser diode (col. 9, lines 15-35);

comparing the collected operating characteristics of the laser diode with the reference operating characteristics of the laser diode (col. 10, lines 48-68; col. 11, lines 1-11); and

if damage to the laser diode is discovered, setting a fault flag (col. 9, lines 1-14).

Referring to claim 30, Levinson discloses a method for screening optical transceiver modules for electrostatic discharge damage, the method being performed in connection with an optical transceiver module that includes a laser diode, and the method comprising:

defining reference operating characteristics of the laser diode;

storing the reference operating characteristics of the laser diode, wherein the periodically collected operating characteristics of the laser diode are stored as cubic spline coefficients (col. 8, lines 31-42; col. 10, lines 28-47);

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periodically collecting operating characteristics of the laser diode (col. 9, lines 15-35);
comparing the collected operating characteristics of the laser diode with the reference
operating characteristics of the laser diode (col. 10, lines 48-68; col. 11, lines 1-11); and
if damage to the laser diode is discovered, setting a fault flag (col. 9, lines 1-14).

As to claims 31-32, Levinson discloses a method for screening optical transceiver
modules for electrostatic discharge damage, the method being performed in connection with an
optical transceiver module that includes a laser diode, wherein the periodically collected
operating characteristics of the laser diode comprise current/voltage characteristics and current
versus optical power characteristics (col. 9, lines 15-35; col. 10, lines 48-68; col. 11, lines 1-11).

Referring to claim 33, Levinson discloses a method for screening optical transceiver
modules for electrostatic discharge damage, the method being performed in connection with an
optical transceiver module that includes a laser diode, wherein the periodically collected
operating characteristics of the laser diode are collected when a forward bias voltage is applied to
the laser diode (col. 4, lines 56-68).

As to claim 34, Levinson discloses a method for screening optical transceiver modules
for electrostatic discharge damage, the method being performed in connection with an optical
transceiver module that includes a laser diode, wherein the periodically collected operating
characteristics of the laser diode comprise at least one of: cut-in voltage; and, forward threshold
voltage (col. 11, lines 59-66).

Referring to claim 35, Levinson discloses a method for screening optical transceiver
modules for electrostatic discharge damage, the method being performed in connection with an
optical transceiver module that includes a laser diode, wherein the periodically collected

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operating characteristics of the laser diode are collected when a reverse bias voltage is applied to the laser diode (col. 9, lines 15-35; figure 7).

As to claim 36, Levinson discloses a method for screening optical transceiver modules for electrostatic discharge damage, the method being performed in connection with an optical transceiver module that includes a laser diode, wherein the periodically collected operating characteristics of the laser diode comprise at least one of: breakdown voltage; reverse bias knee; and, reverse threshold voltage (figure 7).

Referring to claim 37, Levinson discloses a method for screening optical transceiver modules for electrostatic discharge damage, the method being performed in connection with an optical transceiver module that includes a laser diode, wherein periodically collecting operating characteristics of the laser diode comprises:

varying a voltage across the laser diode; and

measuring a current through the laser diode (col. 1, lines 36-44; col. 9, lines 15-35).

As to claim 38, Levinson discloses a method for screening optical transceiver modules for electrostatic discharge damage, the method being performed in connection with an optical transceiver module that includes a laser diode, wherein at least a portion of the method is performed in response to the occurrence of a predefined event (col. 10, lines 48-66).

Referring to claim 39, Levinson discloses a method for screening optical transceiver modules for electrostatic discharge damage, the method being performed in connection with an optical transceiver module that includes a laser diode, further comprising performing a polling routine in response to a setting of the fault flag (col. 9, lines 1-14).

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As to claim 40, Levinson discloses a method for screening optical transceiver modules for electrostatic discharge damage, the method being performed in connection with an optical transceiver module that includes a laser diode, wherein after a calibration of a laser driver associated with the laser diode is performed, current/voltage characteristics of the laser diode are measured by sweeping each section of an I-V curve while controlling the DC bias on the laser diode (col. 10, lines 48-56).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 22-23 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The reason for allowance of the claims 22-23 and 25 is the inclusion of a pair of switches arranged to selectively couple both the laser driver and the microprocessor to the laser diode and the first/second external test pins coupled to respective first/second sides of the laser diode, the first/second external test pins arranged so as to be in communication with the laser diode regardless of whether the switches are open or close, wherein when both switches are open, both the laser driver and the microprocessor are uncoupled from the laser diode, and wherein one of the paths includes a pair of switches arranged to enable selective coupling of the laser driver to the laser diode.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 27 is allowed.

The reason for allowance of claim 27 is the inclusion of a vertical cavity surface emitting laser (VCSEL).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 4-15, 22-23, 25-28, and 30-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan M. Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-2276. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on (571) 272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Toan Le

August 4, 2006

**BRYAN BUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

